supplementary in nature to facilitate banks to meet the ground level credit requirements in addition to their internal lendable resources. As per Short Term-Seasonal Agriculture Operation (ST-SAO) refinance policy for cooperatives for the year 2005-06, the quantum of refinance to State Cooperative Bank (SCB) is linked to gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). SCBs, having gross NPA upto 20% as on 31st March, 2004, would be provided refinance upto 30% of Realistic Lending Programme (RLP) of eligible DCBs. SCBs having gross NPAs more than 20% are eligible for refinance upto 25% of RLP.

(b) and (c) Neither Government of India nor NABARD has received any such proposal from Government of Punjab.

World Bank funds for health projects

3995. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that World Bank has upheld approximately 1 billion $ funding for health projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has written to all State Governments and Central Departments to ensure complete transparency and integrity in awarding contracts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the World Bank has issued any deviations from the established procedure contained in the guidelines;

(f) if so, the details of guidelines thereof; and

(g) the further action taken by Government to complete the health projects with the World Bank funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The World Bank has postponed the approval of the following three projects in the health sector for an amount of US$ 662 million:—

(1) Reproductive & Child Health Project -II for US $ 350 million,

(2) Revised National TB Control Project Phase - II (RNTCP -ii) for US $ 170 million, and

(3) Karnataka Health Systems Development & Reform Project for US $ 142 million,

as the Department of Institutional Integrity (INT) of the World Bank has concluded on the basis of its investigations that in the World Bank assisted Reproductive & Child Health Project - I project (US $ 235 million and closed on 30/09/04), there were some irregularities in the procurement process.

(c) to (f) Yes sir. The responsibility for the implementation of the projects (53 involving US $ 11.9 billiion of World Bank support), including award and administration of various contracts, rests with the project authorities, which includes the Line Ministries, State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings. The World Bank's policy requires that the project authorities as well as the bidders, suppliers and contractors under Bank-financed contracts to observe the Bank guidelines and procedures during execution of such contracts. Accordingly, the State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments have been requested that these guidelines of the Bank may be reiterated to the project authorities so that there is no deviation from the established procedures of the Bank.

(g) For continuous World Bank support in the Health Sector, the Government of India and the World Bank are currently engaged in a dialogue to agree on an action plan in addition to the existing guidelines that will strengthen the procurement systems in the Health Sector in India and bring greater transparency.

Loan Provided to Medium and Small Farmers

†3996. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of bank loans provided to medium and small farmers and to the poor during the last three years;

(b) the details of non-payment during the last three years and the amount remained with Government as bad debt;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.